NEWSLETTER - MAY 2026

GOLD $4,555.60 SILVER $74.11 ₿ BITCOIN $79,824.30

Last Month: GOLD $4,556,10 SILVER $71.56 ₿ BITCOIN $67,473

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NEXT MEETING MAY 7TH

Next Olympia Coin Club Meeting
Virgil S. Clarkson Senior Center
(next to the Lacey Community Center)
6757 Pacific Ave SE
Lacey, WA 98503
7:00PM - Doors open at 6:00PM

UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

MAY 30
Greater Tacoma Coin Show
Holiday Inn Express, I-5 and Bridgeport Way, Tacoma, WA
David F. Schmidt
253-209-0128

JUN 6
Hub City Coin Show
Chehalis Moose Lodge #1109, 1400 Grand Ave, Centralia, WA
Sean Peterson
253-576-6716

Oliver Brock
Club President

A WORD FROM PRESIDENT OLIVER BROCK

oliver.brock@comcast.net

What a hobby to be in. That's right, coin collecting is where to be. Prices have doubled, and it is now taxable. The big spring PNNA show is done. I didn't go but heard it had twenty-five more vendors. Which is great when you can add more tables to a show. I did talk with one dealer who took silver and gold but got no sales for them. I also talked with a local coin shop who said their sale tax bill is $80K. With their best sale of $300K to one customer. I did do the Cowlitz coin show with Dale. (thanks Dale) Great people and location.
So that makes me think is it the ten percent sales tax or the precious metals prices too high.

The Lacey Fun Fair is around the corner. Please sign up to help at the Fun Fair May 16-17.

American Rare Coin will be sponsoring the Olympia Coin Club at the Lacey Fun Fair.

Oliver

Lacey Spring Fun Fair
FREE FAMILY EVENT

OCC Volunteers needed for the OCC Booth

Lacey Spring Fun Fair
May 16 and 17, 2026 - St. Martin's University
May 16, 2026 10 am – 6 pm
May 17, 2026 11 am – 5 pm

Give your little ones a weekend packed with free, hands-on activities designed to spark creativity, curiosity, and pure springtime joy.
A community tradition since 1988, the Lacey Spring Fun Fair has delivered 36 years of free, family-friendly entertainment to the greater Olympia area. With colorful attractions, exciting rides, and engaging performances, this two-day celebration is overflowing with energy, imagination, and learning opportunities for kids of every age.

Olympia Coin Club
Meeting Minutes - April 2, 2026

Oliver opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. He reminded the attendees that the annual picnic will be coming up in Aug. The Rose Garden shelter has been reserved. The Club will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. Members should bring a side dish and their own drinks.

Lacey Fun Fair and Duck Dash

Kevin reminded the attendees that the Fun Fair on May 16 and 17 will be held at St. Martins University and the Rotary Duck Dash will be held in June at The Thurston County Fair Grounds. The Club's participation in these depends upon getting enough volunteers to man the booth for a 2 hour shift at the Fun Fair and a 1 hour shift at the Duck Dash. Kevin had a sign-up sheet for each event.

Election of Officers

Nominations were opened for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and 2 Board positions. Kristi nominated Oliver for president. Todd nominated Ken for a Board position, and Todd nominated Jay for Vice President. Nominations will remain open for the May meeting.
Voting will occur at the June meeting.

PNNA Shuttle

Rick announced that there will NOT be a shuttle going from Olympia to Portland for the PNNA Show.

Bid Board

One Bid Board was completed. 1871 Seated Liberty Dime won by Jordan Kennedy,

Passing

It is with sadness that Dennis reported the death of long time member, Dave Yates, last month.

Green Ticket Winners

1965 Kennedy Half Dollar - Kristi Gerard
1966 Kennedy Half Dollar – Dale Gerard
1972 Eisenhower Proof Dollar – Luke Garrett

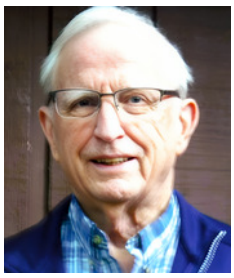
Y/N Drawing Winners

Clad Half Dollar – Alica Rumple
Coin Collecting Book – Zeb Rumple

Membership Prize

1989 Bicentennial of the Mutiny, 1 Crown – Lacey Garrett.

Rich Green, Secretary
(My thanks to Jay and Terri for taking notes for me)



Richard Green
Club Secretary

Next OCC Board Meeting
May 28th at 6pm
Rivers Edge - Tumwater

Step Into a Key Role: Treasurer Needed

Message from Terri Yurkas - Treasurer

Request for Treasurer Volunteers

As elections are approaching, I'd like to ask members to consider stepping into the Treasurer position. I have served as Treasurer since 2011, and with increasing responsibilities in my Rotary club, it's time for someone new to take on this important role.

The Treasurer is a key part of keeping our club running smoothly. While the list of duties may look long at first glance, each task is very manageable—and several can be shared or delegated. Most of the work is completed at the monthly meetings.

Core Responsibilities

Financial Stewardship

- Maintain the club's cash box and bank account
- Report the club's financial standing at meetings

Collection of Funds

- Raffle Tickets – Sold at the beginning of the meeting and during break
- Bid Boards – Rick currently handles the transactions and provides the funds to
- the Treasurer
- Auction– Track sales, collect payments, and pay members for their items
    - o (Kristi currently assists with posting the sales; Treasurer collects the funds)
- **Coin Show** – Collect funds from table and ticket sales
- **Yearly dues**

Payments

- Pay club bills, including:
    - o PNNA dues
    - o ANA dues
    - o Coin show and other expenses

Reports

- File the annual IRS report
- File the annual State of Washington report

If you've ever thought about getting more involved, this is a great opportunity. The role is essential, but it's also very rewarding—and you won't be doing it alone. I'm happy to help with the transition, training, and answer any questions. Please take time to consider this request for taking the position.

As with the South Hill Coin Club, I have been organizing the monthly report (after receiving income and expenses for the month) and completing the required government reports, and I would be happy to continue assisting with these tasks for the new Treasurer if desired.

COMING FROM THE US MINT

May 8

● LIMITED

American Buffalo 2025 One Ounce Gold Proof Coin

AMERICAN BUFFALO COINS

WEST POINT (W)

25EL

May 12

William McKinley Presidential Silver Medal

S825

May 20

● NOT AVAILABLE ● LIMITED

American Eagle 2025 One Ounce Silver Uncirculated Coin

AMERICAN EAGLE COINS

WEST POINT (W)

25EG

For more information and releases visit USMint.gov

Trump's Signature to Appear on U.S. Currency for the Nation's 250th Anniversary

The U.S. Treasury Department has announced that President Donald Trump's signature will appear on future U.S. paper currency beginning in 2026, in honor of the 250th anniversary of American independence. This marks the first time in U.S. history that a sitting president's signature will be featured on circulating paper money, breaking a 165-year tradition in which only the Treasurer of the United States and the Secretary of the Treasury signed notes.

Under the new arrangement, President Trump's signature will appear alongside that of Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent. The President's signature will occupy the space traditionally reserved for the Treasurer's signature, effectively replacing that long-standing element while leaving the overall note designs largely unchanged.

The rollout will begin with the $100 Federal Reserve note, with production of the first notes bearing Trump's and Bessent's signatures scheduled for June 2026. Other denominations are expected to follow later in the year as existing stock is depleted and new print runs are ordered by the Federal Reserve.

According to Treasury statements, the change is framed as part of a broader effort to commemorate the Semiquincentennial and to highlight what the administration describes as a period of economic strength and "Golden Age" revival. Supporters within the administration have emphasized the symbolic value of pairing the nation's 250th anniversary with a visible, contemporary presidential mark on its currency.

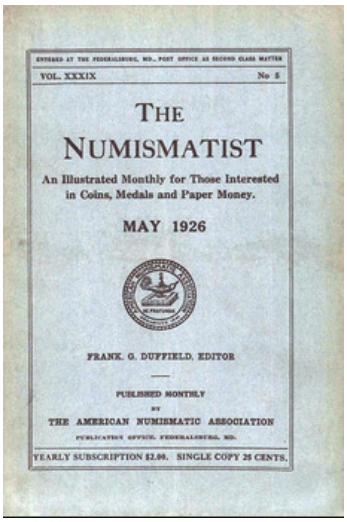
For collectors, this development raises interesting numismatic questions. On one hand, the sheer volume of modern currency production suggests that notes with Trump's signature will not be rare in the short term. On the other hand, their status as the first—and so far only—series to carry a sitting president's signature, as well as their association with the 250th anniversary, may give them special historical appeal and make high-grade examples, first-run notes, or low-serial numbers particularly desirable to collectors.

Image: USA Today — artist's rendering of a possible note design.

While no official images of the upcoming designs have been released, one thing is certain: adding the signature of a sitting president to U.S. currency will mark a significant departure from long-standing tradition. The $100 bill has already seen several major redesigns in recent decades, and the next update promises to be another noteworthy chapter in its evolving history.

100 Years Ago in Coins: A Look Back Through The Numismatist

Here's a look back 100 years at a couple of articles from the May 1926 issue of The Numismatist.



Cuyahoga Falls.

By WALDO C. MOORE.

There is nothing within the scope of human attainments more beneficial and enchanting to the collector and student than to look back through the mists and shadows of past years to the morning, as it were, of creation, and to trace through the lapse of time the stories of the numberless achievements of the genius of man.

The archaeologist wanders with patient step through storm and sunshine in distant lands, searching with mingled pleasure and toil for crumbling mementoes of prehistoric man.

The tireless sculptor meets his conception of artistic genius in the sublime marble of Phidias or Praxiteles.

The song of the poet, immeasurably beautiful and sweet, is but the glad refrain of the divine measure sung by the bards in Eastern climes, long years before the earth was vexed with the sublime spectacle of a Saviour looking in pity upon the world He was dying to redeem.

The student of numismatics is frequently lured, for his quest, in out-of-the-way places which still bask comfortably in the sunshine of yesterday. It is the province of history to gather and record the findings and events from which these beautiful lessons are derived.

Cuyahoga Falls is among the most thoroughly enterprising towns in Ohio. The name of the town is derived from the falls in the Cuyahoga River, to be seen within its limits. The Indians called Cuyahoga Falls "Coppacaw," which signifies "shedding tears." The name first applied to the settlement was Manchester.

RAVINE AT CUYAHOGA FALLS.
(Drawn by Henry Howe in 1846.)

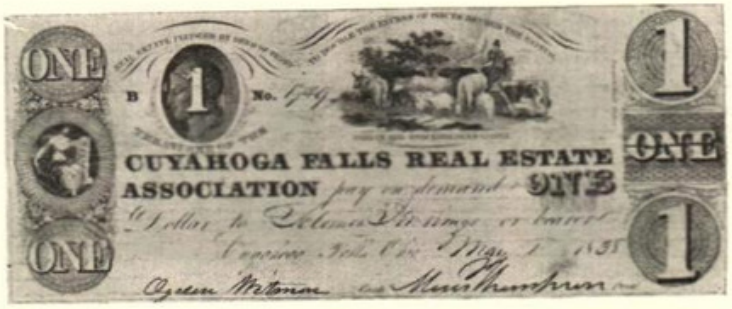
The scenery in and around the town is uncommonly fine; as one approaches it, he must acknowledge the justness of the designation which has been given it as the "Village of White Houses." The view of the falls is hardly to be surpassed in beauty by any in the country.

After the revulsion in money matters in 1837 there was great embarrassment for want of a currency, which led to the adoption of a plan for issuing

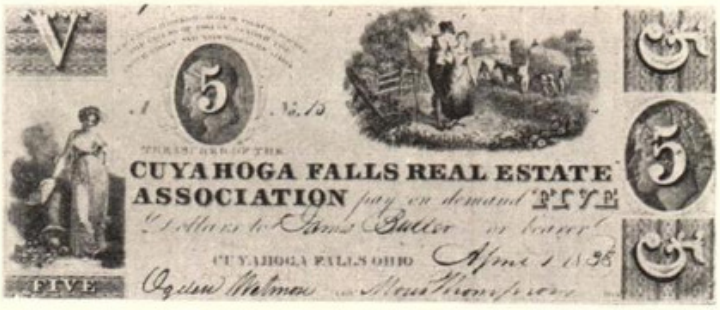
100 Years Ago in Coins: A Look Back Through The Numismatist Continued

notes in the similitude of bank notes, upon the basis of real estate for security. But it was soon abandoned as a failure, causing loss to some, but without very serious injury to many persons. This institution of issue was known as the Cuyahoga Falls Real Estate Association. Some of its notes are today preserved by a few persons as curiosities and mementoes of the past.

The currency notes of this association were signed by Moses Thompson, President, and Ogden Wetmore, Cashier. Upon the face of the first issue are



100 Years Ago in Coins: A Look Back Through The Numismatist Continued



printed these words: "Unincumbered real estate pledged to double the amount of issue, and stockholders liable," while on a later issue are to be found the words: "Real estate pledged by deed of trust to double the excess of issue beyond the capital paid in and stockholders liable." On the fractional notes are the words: "Real estate pledged."

It is not known what engraving firm supplied the Association with its first note issue, or its fractional notes. The second issue was done by James W. Steel, Philadelphia.

IT MAY LAST LONGER, BUT IT WILL GO NO FARTHER.

Good news from Washington! The United States Treasury is bringing out a dollar bill that will last longer than the old dollar bills that have been cluttering up the premises for some time past, says the Philadelphia Public Ledger. This is a move in the right direction. Mr. Mellon is turning out to be a first-class Secretary after all.

Of all things current and concurrent in these latter days, the dollar bill has seemed to be the most short-lived. It has such a feeble hold on life that the merest whisper dissolves and banishes it. Once upon a time a dollar bill was a thing of substance. It had durability. It had fractional continuity. It had poise and calm. And then all of a sudden it had almost nothing.

But the worst is now over. The Treasury has found the way to make a dollar bill go a whole year where now it fags out at about the ninth month. Just a matter of some new wrinkle in papermaking, you know. But that item is purely negligible. A dollar that will last longer, even though it doesn't go a bit farther, will be nothing less than a boon at this time.

SWEDEN'S MINT MASTER'S REPORT FOR 1925.

From the report of K. A. Wallroth, mint master at the Swedish mint, it will be found, among other highly interesting and valuable information, that during the year 1,536 medals in gold, 15,329 in silver and 4,446 in bronze were struck at a sale value of Kr. 186,964.06—a remarkable showing in medallic art for this country.

J. deL.

MEDAL OF POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, BRUSSELS.

The Polytechnic University at Brussels, Belgium, recently celebrated its fifty-year jubilee by striking a medal strong in character and refined in execution.

It was designed by Franz Huygelen. We reproduce it here from a specimen furnished by J. deLagerberg, of East Orange, N. J. It is struck in silver and bronze and measures 3½ inches in diameter.

Unknown Medal on the Naval Battle of Matanzas.

By DR. JULIUS CAHN, Frankfurt, Germany.

The extensive wars which embroiled the Kingdom of Spain with the United Provinces of the Netherlands during the period of the Thirty Years War also involved the American possessions of Spain, and the naval war which ensued raged chiefly along their coasts. The naval superiority of the Dutch became apparent for the first time during these combats.

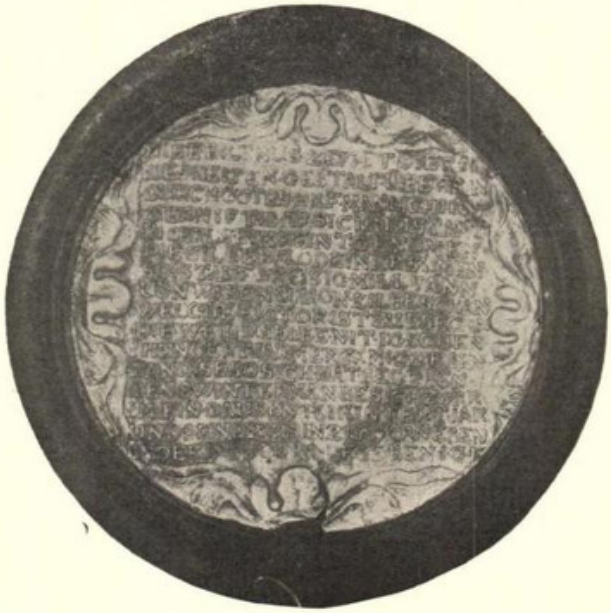
The most important event during this naval war, which even today is considered by the Dutch as one of their greatest achievements, was the capture of the Spanish Silver Fleet on September 8th, 1628, in the Bay of Matanzas, on the coast of Cuba. As early as the spring of this year the Dutch Admiral, Pieter Adriaanszoon, defeated a Spanish fleet on the coast of Cuba, near St. Christoffel, and destroyed it after the capture of its considerable booty. In that same summer the West Indies Company, the great Dutch Society which was engaged in the Central American trade, equipped a second fleet of 31 vessels in order to attack the Spaniards on the high seas. The Government placed this fleet under the command of Pieter Pieeerszoon Heyn and he received orders to attack and capture the Spanish Silver Fleet, which was to carry to the home country the products of the mines of Mexico.

In carrying out this commission good fortune favored him. The Spanish fleet, which was sailing along the coast of Florida in the beginning of September, was driven south by a terrific tempest and ran directly into the Dutch fleet, which was lying in wait in the Bay of Matanzas. After a brief resistance the Spanish ships were all captured by the Dutch. The booty which fell into their hands was huge. Not less than 72 tons of precious metal, chiefly silver, were captured, and in addition merchandise to the value of thirty million gulden. The value of the captured ships, with complete equipment and arms, was estimated at four million. The returning Pieter Heyn and his sailors were received with great jubilation in Amsterdam and a triumphal procession was held. The Provinces appointed the naval hero as Lieutenant Admiral of Holland and granted to him, as his personal property, the tenth part of the entire prize.

To commemorate this event of happy augury a series of medals were struck, in accordance with the custom of the time. Four such varieties are

100 Years Ago in Coins: A Look Back Through The Numismatist Continued

illustrated in the second volume of Van Loon, page 173 of the Dutch edition. A larger and a smaller one with a bust of Hehn and the picture of the naval battle on the reverse; the third, with a map of the Western Hemisphere and the picture of the Bay of Matanzas; and the fourth, by the German master, Christian Maler, with the picture of the naval battle, and inscription on the reverse. All of these medals are now very rare.



I have been fortune enough to discover a fifth medal, hitherto entirely unknown, in commemoration of the naval battle of Matanzas, in the very important collection of Central and South American coinages which belonged to the lately deceased Mr. Richard F. Peltzer, director of the Hamburg-American Line. Probably it is rather an essay or the first striking of a medal which subsequently was never actually issued. For it is executed in

100 Years Ago in Coins: A Look Back Through The Numismatist Continued

very thin sheet silver and both obverse and reverse are set in a finely turned wooden frame of contemporary manufacture, over a wax core, and the two sides can be locked together. The relief of the bust is extraordinarily high. It is quite surprising that both the legend and the inscription are not given in the Dutch, but in the low German, language, for which particularly no precedent can be found at that period. This gives some basis for the suspicion that the medal is the work of a German master. At the end of the inscription on the reverse, he unfortunately discloses his identity only by his initials, I. G. F., but no artist is known among the medallists of that period to whom these initials fit. Perhaps at some future time his name will be discovered.

A description of the medal follows: Obverse, PIETER. PIETRSZ.—HAYN. GENERAL. ZUR SE. Bareheaded bust of Heyn almost facing, in embroidered coat, less collar, and chain of order. Reverse, in a frame of decorative leaves, the low German inscription.

DISE . BILTNUS ZEIGET DIER AN .
DES . HEL . TEN . GESTALT u . BERSAN .
DURCH . GOTES . HILF . MANLICH HANT .
UERNINFTIC . AF : SICH : u : : V . STANT .
RIDERL . SEIM . FEINT . GENOMEN
DIE . SILBER . ELOD . EINER . SUMEN .
SO . IST . AUF . DREISIG . MILLYANN
VON WAREN . u . VON . SILBE : SCHAN .
WELCHE . FICTOR : IST ZU BESECHN
DIE . WEIL . D : SELBE . NIT . I : GSCHEN .
I : HUNDERT . IAR . MERCK MICH EBEN
DAN . DISE . SO . SICH . HAT BEGEBEN .
DEN . 8 . WINTER . MAN . BESICH . ZWAR .
IM . EIN . DAUSENT . 6 . HUNTERT . JAR .
UND . 8 . UND . ZWINZIG . DAR . NEBEN
IN . DER INSL . CUBA . BEGEBEN . I . G . F .
16 ——— 29

Perhaps the crudity and awarkwardness of these well-intentioned lines were the reason that the medal has remained merely an essay and was never actually executed.

THE COOLIDGE PORTRAIT ON THE SESQUI COINS.

The Philadelphia Public Ledger, on March 28, devoted a full page to an interview with Farran Zerbe on the proposed Sesqui coins and a description of some of the numismatic oddities in his collection. Part of the interview is reprinted here:

"The issuance of a memorial silver half-dollar as well as of a two-and-a-half-dollar gold piece to commemorate the exposition has been authorized by Congress. Designs have been submitted for both. As this is written the design of the 50-cent piece, which will bear the President's portrait, is still awaiting approval. If approved, the coins will be minted immediately and delivered to officials of the exposition, who will put them up for sale at a premium to help finance the celebration.

"The design of the coin which may bear the President's portrait is being arranged by John M. Sinnock, engraver of the Philadelphia Mint. As submitted to officials at Washington, it suggests for the obverse side the profiles of Washington and Coolidge arranged in what numismatists call 'jugate' design, or one imposed upon the other, as the heads of Washington and Lafayette were impressed on the Lafayette dollar. The reverse side will be conventional.

" 'In light of the enhanced value of the coins struck to commemorate previous expositions, the purchase of the coins at a premium will be an investment,' said Farran Zerbe, former President of the American Numismatic Association, who has placed his expert knowledge and experience at the service of Sesqui-centennial officials. 'The Panama-Pacific Exposition memorial half-dollar, for example, was sold for a dollar by the exposition officials. It is now so scarce that it will bring $7.50 at any sale. The Sesqui-centennial coins will be put out in small lots as the demand is anticipated. This will

eventually increase their value for collections, because there will be no surfeit of them after the demand has been satisfied.

" 'There has been comment to the effect that an "unwritten law" prevents the use of portraits of living men on our coinage. This is, of course, an unsupported statement which has come to be accepted by some as fact. The basis of it lies probably in a decision made more than a century ago by George Washington.

" 'Shortly after the conclusion of the Revolution, when the new nation was still facing an uncertain future, a group of men proposed that Washington's profile be engraved on our coinage. To that the first President objected on the grounds that it was typical of monarchy. But the last century and a half has led us far away from any monarchial suggestion. While Washington's objection was appropriate enough under the conditions existing at that time, we have now outlived the necessity for such caution.

" 'Evidence that the Government doesn't recognize such an "unwritten law" may be seen in the centennial half-dollar issued for the State of Alabama, when it celebrated its 100th year of Statehood in 1919. On that coin appeared the portraits in "jugate" design of the first Governor, William Wyatt Bibb, and the Centennial Governor, Thomas E. Kilby.

" 'The Alabama coin was especially noted for the fact that Governor Kilby was the first living American to see his portrait on a coin. Portraits of living persons have appeared on our paper money during and immediately after the Civil War. The discontinuance of such portraits is said to have followed certain objections raised to a proposed 15-cent scrip in 1869, during the tragic reconstruction period. It had been planned to place the portraits of the two Union generals, Grant and Sherman, on the scrip, but when the patterns for this issue were brought to the attention of Southern Congressmen they declared them unacceptable. The issue was never printed, and there has been none since carrying the portrait of a living man.'

"Mr. Zerbe is convinced that the plan to have the profile of President Coolidge on the Sesqui-centennial half-dollar will strike a popular chord among numismatists and other lovers of medallic art.

" 'It is a dignified and a beautiful method of recognition,' he said. 'Apart from that fact, such coins should prove of rare historic interest. Portraits on money have proved invaluable at all times to the historian. Much of what we know of ancient Rome and Greece has been imparted to us through their coins, made as they are of the least perishable of materials.' "

WE SUSPECT THIS REFERS TO THE IRISH GUN MONEY.

"That's just humbug," we say about anything that we regard to be full of pretense, or a hoax, something contrived to mislead us. The word is used at times also to describe the deceiver who is the author of the trick or pretense.

For the origin of the expression we may choose between the accepted etymological derivation and a historical legend which for centuries has clung to the word.

The first is that "humbug" is derived from the old word "hum," meaning to deceive or impose upon, plus "bug," signifying a frightful object.

According to the story which has followed the word into present-day speech we have it from the time of James II, when a spurious coin made of an alloy of copper was issued from the Dublin Mint, and called, in Ireland, "Uim bog," or soft copper. Doubtless there was frequent occasion then to say, "Don't try any uim bog on me," from which it would be easily comprehensible that we should have "humbug" as it is used in modern speech.—Press Clipping.

PUSHING THE SALE OF THE STONE MOUNTAIN COIN.

In order to assist in the distribution of the Stone Mountain coins, one of the St. Louis banks is offering to give, for a limited time, one of the half dollars to each person opening a savings account with the bank with an initial deposit of $5 or more. Early in April circulars were distributed on the streets of St. Louis giving the history of the Stone Mountain coin, with the following statement: "Stone Mountain Coins for sale at all banks, $1. After April 15, $2."

Washington State Tax Scrip by Thomas Kochaniewicz

During the March auction, Thomas bid on several Washington State Tax Scrip. Kevin and Oliver offered to cover the cost if he returned with a short report about them at the next meeting. At the April Olympia Coin Club Meeting, Thomas delivered — and below is the report he presented to the club.

Hello, my name is Thomas, and last month I was able to get four 1935 tax token scrips, thanks to Kevin. They were used during the Great Depression to collect sales tax on small purchases typically under 10 cents. Washington State was one of the 12 states that decided to implement a sales tax during the 1920's. The problem arose when a consumer would buy an item of 10 cents or less and the tax due would be 1/5 or 1/10th of a cent. Many times, the merchant would take that 1/5th of a cent as a loss or they would charge the consumer a full penny in tax. These tax scrips prevented consumers from being overcharged or the merchant from absorbing the tax. These tax scrips couldn't be used to buy goods but only to cover the taxes of the goods. Early 1935 scrips were often made of cardboard or paper (like this one) later, they were replaced with metal. In 1951, Washington abolished the tax token system. It was replaced with price brackets where the taxes are rounded to the nearest cent. This shift meant that the state accepted a slight loss on small purchases but gained efficiency.

Thomas Kochaniewicz
Young Numismatist

Unknown fiber or rubber material - 1941

STATE OF WASHINGTON
TAX TOKEN SCRIP
TAX ON PURCHASE 10 CENTS OR LESS
THIS SCRIP WILL BE REDEEMED IN CASH BY THE TAX COMMISSION UPON PRESENTATION EITHER PRIOR TO OR WITHIN SIXTY DAYS AFTER PUBLIC NOTICE OF CALL FOR REDEMPTION OF THIS SERIES
CH. 180 LAWS 1935
SERIES C

1935 State of Washington Tax Token Scrip

State of Washington
Metal - Aluminium

One version of the State of Washington plastic tax tokens

Fiber Maroon

Fiber Grey

Brass

Copper

OCC Officer Position Elections

It's that time again to elect officers for the Olympia Coin Club. If you would like to run for one of the positions please let one of the current officers know so we can get your name on the ballot.

All are one term except for board of directors

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Board of director #2
Board of director #4

From the Olympia Coin Club by-laws:

Election of Officers

Nominations of officers shall be made at the April and May regular meetings. The election shall be held at the following June meeting. All officers shall be elected by majority vote. Officers shall be installed at the summer picnic and assume duties at the September regular meeting. Officers shall serve for one year. Board members at-large shall serve for two (2) years with two being elected annually. Positions 1 & 3 to be elected in the odd numbered years and positions 2 & 4 to be elected in the even numbered years

Section 1. The President shall preside at all regular meetings and appoint all committees as needed. In the Presidents absence, these duties shall be assumed in the order of Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution.

Section 2. The Vice President shall be responsible for scheduling and / or conducting educational programs to be presented at the club's regular meetings

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep a written record of all transactions (memberships, correspondence, etc.) and report the minutes of all meetings.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all money, give a monthly status report and maintain a written ledger.

Section 5. Board Members shall attend board meetings and act in the best interest of the club when voting on club matters.

Keep the Club Running - OCC Needs a Treasurer

Olympia Coin Club needs a Treasurer to keep the club running. Are you interested?

Treasurer Duties:

- Collect Payments – Receive membership dues and bid board sales (from Rick Schultz).
- Auction Transactions – Receive payments for auctions and make change (assistants may handle this).
- Manage Club Finances – Oversee the checkbook and cash box.
- Pay any bills or invoices
- Record keeping – Maintain transaction records and send them to Terri for the Treasurer's Report (or create the report yourself if preferred).
- Financial Reporting – Provide a financial update to officers and directors.
- Annual Coin Show – Collect funds from ticket and table sales, track income and expenses, and provide a cash box for the event.

Assistant Treasurer Duties:

(We can have multiple assistants, so don't hesitate to jump in!)

- Auction Management – Track auction sales - yellow auction sheets.
- Raffle Coordination – Sell raffle tickets for 3–4 prizes during the meeting.
- Announce Winners – Announce the raffle and membership prize winners.
- Transaction Handling – Receive auction payments and provide change.
- Seller Settlements – Finalize auction sellers' lots, charge any applicable fees, and pay the seller.

The Story Behind the Buffalo Nickel Portrait

Few U.S. coins capture the American imagination like the Buffalo nickel. Struck from 1913 to 1938, it remains one of the most iconic designs in American numismatics. The rugged Native American portrait on the obverse and the powerful bison on the reverse have come to symbolize a romanticized vision of the American West. Yet behind this familiar design lies a surprisingly tangled story—one involving artistic inspiration, conflicting memories, and a debate that has lasted more than a century.
This article explores the origins of the Buffalo nickel's portrait, the men who may have inspired it, and why the truth is more complicated than most collectors realize.

A New Vision for American Coinage
In the early 1900s, the U.S. Mint began replacing older, utilitarian designs with more artistic ones. Sculptor James Earle Fraser, a student of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, was commissioned to redesign the nickel. Fraser wanted a design that was unmistakably American—something that could not be confused with the coinage of any other nation.
He later said:
"I felt that the Native American and the buffalo were truly American symbols."
Fraser's goal was not to create portraits of specific individuals, but to capture the spirit of the American West before it disappeared.

Many Claim to be the Model for the Buffalo Nickel:

Chief Two Guns White Calf (Piegan Blackfeet) For decades, newspapers and tourism promoters claimed that Chief Two Guns White Calf was the model for the Native American portrait on the Buffalo nickel. However, designer James Earle Fraser later clarified that he had never met Two Guns White Calf and that the coin's portrait was a composite drawn from several Native American models he sketched over the years. Fraser consistently named Iron Tail and Two Moons as primary influences, with possible contributions from others.
The belief that Two Guns White Calf was "the" model became popular because he was a nationally recognized figure who worked with the Great Northern Railway to promote Glacier National Park. His striking public image made him an appealing—though incorrect—candidate for the Buffalo nickel legend.
Photo from: Evening Star Nov 14, 1926

You probably have his portrait in your pocket. Chief Two-Gun-White-Calf, who posed for the Indian on the buffalo nickel, snapped at the recent tribal gathering for the dedication of the Haskell Indian Institute's stadium.

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Continued

The Washington Times
December 12, 1920

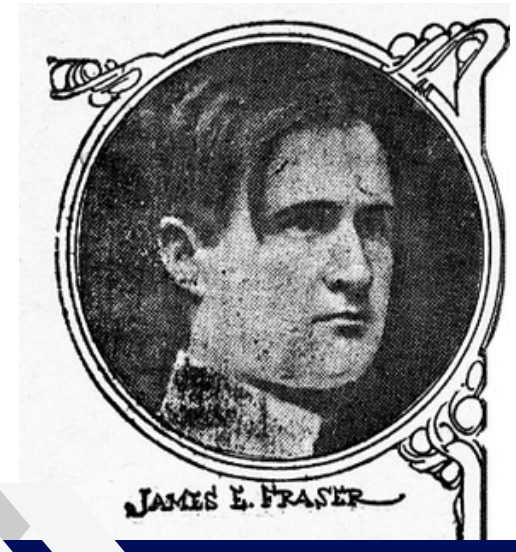
BUFFALO NICKEL HEAD TO BE SEEN IN FILMS

To have the picture of one of the leading actors in his latest production on the face of one of the coins issued by the United States Treasury is the distinction accorded Marshall Neilman. While in Glacier Park, Mont., recently with his company of players, who were enacting scenes for "Paris," Mr. Neilman required the services of several hundred Indians for one of the battle scenes.

He secured Two Gun White Caps, one of the most respected Indian citizens of Montana, to assist in rounding up the necessary actors for the picture. White Caps is the presiding judge of the apellate court, which is seated at Burnside, Montana.

Neilman was impressed with White Caps' personality and used him for many of the "close-ups" in the picture. He later discovered that the Indian justice was picked from thousands of Indians and was posed for the likeness which has been seen by all on the buffalo nickel.

1920 Article stating that Chief Two Gun White Caps (name is misspelled) was the model for the Buffalo Nickel



The Weekly Iberian
July 24, 1920

The Buffalo Nickel.

The Indian head and buffalo nickels were first put in circulation February 22, 1913, at the ceremonies inaugurating the memorial to the North American Indian at Fort Wadsworth, N. Y., when the new coin was produced by Dr. George F. Kunz. The first one was given to President Taft and others were distributed among the Indian chiefs present. Iron Tail, a Sioux chief on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota, was the model for the Indian head on the buffalo nickel.

1920 article stating that Chief Iron Tail was the model for the Buffalo Nickel

THE BUFFALO NICKEL INDIAN

OUT in Glacier National park lives a Blackfoot Indian chief named Two Guns White Calf. For many years innumerable pictures of him have appeared in newspapers all over the country with some such caption as "You've His Portrait in Your Pocket—Perhaps." For popular legend has it that he is the original of the Indian on the buffalo nickel.

But the man who knows, if anyone does, who was the original of that famous likeness says that it isn't Chief Two Guns White Calf. That man is James Earle Frazer, a famous sculptor whose design was accepted by officials of the United States treasury when the new five-cent piece was issued.

Mr. Frazer has stated that he "had never seen Two Guns White Calf," which would seem to dispose of the legend of the Blackfoot be-

The Coolidge Examiner
April 22, 1932

ing his model. More than that he goes on to say that he used the profiles of three Indians for his design. One was Chief Iron Tail of the Ogallala Sioux, another was Chief Two Moons of the Northern Cheyennes and the third was an Indian whose name he had forgotten. So instead of the "buffalo nickel Indian" having one original, it had three and two of them were very famous Indians indeed—great chiefs among their people and leaders in the Custer battle in 1876 and other famous battles with both white men and red.

(©, 1932, Western Newspaper Union.)

A 1932 article stating that Chief Two Guns White Calf (correct name spelling) was the model for the Buffalo Nickel. James E. Frasier stated he had never met Two Guns White Calf. However, he was the model for the later Washington Redskins Logo.

BUFFALO NICKELS CAUSE OF A PANIC

RUMORS THAT THEY WERE BEING COUNTERFEITED WAS CAUSE OF TROUBLE.

Atlanta, June 24.—No bull in a china shop ever created more consternation than the buffalo on Uncle Sam's new nickel caused among the lady cashiers of the local moving picture shows this morning.

The girls were thrown into a mild panic by the announcement, which came via New Orleans, that the South had been flooded with counterfeit buffalo nickels.

Following this came the statement that a local bank had turned down about twenty counterfeits taken in Saturday by one show and as a result the poor girls were almost afraid to accept any nickel but the old mintage with the Goddess of Liberty's head on it.

And the funny part of it is that there seems to be no ground for the rumor at all, except that the new buffalo nickel differs slightly from the one that was first issued. The issue that is causing all the trouble is the one from the Philadelphia mint, it is said.

There is a marked difference between these buffalo nickels and those which were first minted at Denver. The coins made at Denver have a small D under the "five cents," while the Philadelphia nickels have no mint mark.

An interesting article about the release of the new Buffalo Nickel - New Brunswick News June 25, 1913

The Challis Messenger
May 3, 1922

absolute confidence.

All letters should be addressed Helen Brooks, Box 1545, Salt Lake Ci

Miss Helen Brooks:

Please tell me what tribe of Indians the Indian head on our Buffalo nickel represents, if any.

F. J., Payson, Utah.

It was James Fraser who made the design of the Buffalo nickel. The head is a composite made from five different models, and is the sculptor's ideal of an American Indian. Before the work on the relief was even begun portrait busts were made from each of the models, then portrait reliefs. This means that ten distinct portraits were completed before our new coin design was started.

Here Miss Helen Brooks states that five Indian models were used for the design of the portrait on the Buffalo Nickel

Omaha Daily Bee
June 19, 1916

BUFFALO NICKEL INDIAN DEAD

Stricken with Pneumonia Iron Tail Goes to Meet the Great Spirit.

Iron Tail the Mighty, sage and Indian chieftain, whose features adorn the buffalo nickels, is dead.

Thousands of children and grown-ups who have been delighted with his realistic characterization of an "Injun on the warpath" in the Buffalo Bill Wild West shows will mourn his loss as that of a friend. Nothing pleased him more than to be surrounded by a dozen or so paleface papooses, whom he would tell of Custer's last fight and other stories of wild frontier days.

The last wish of Chief Iron Tail never was realized. Stricken with pneumonia while performing in Philadelphia, the chieftain was taken to St. Luke's Homeopathic hospital. He refused to stay there and begged the physicians to let him go home to his squaw to die. She lives on the Indian reservation near Rushville, Neb.

The end came early at Fort Wayne, Ind. The chief was lying in his berth on the circus train. Suddenly he gave a loud cry. Circus physicians who had been attending him rushed to his side.

"Big chief go to happy huntin' grounds," Iron Tail said, as his face brightened. Then, without warning, he uttered a warwhoop such as had not been emitted from his lips for years. A convulsive sob, a half smile and the old warrior was free from the cares and worries attending his later years.

Dr. Frederick Wilcox was the physician who attended him in Philadelphia. A white-clad nurse was constantly in attendance, and the Indian's eyes would follow her every movement.

"The c hief was certainly a grand old man," said Dr. Wilcox. "He was a stoic of the stoics. I don't believe there is a redskin living today who is any braver than he. He took his medicine like a major."

When the show left for Washington Chief Iron Tail insisted upon going and could not be made to understand that he was not well enough to make the trip.

"Injun goin' to die," he grunted one day to Dr. Wilcox. "Him want to die with squaw and rest of tribe."

While in the hospital he lived over again the stirring battles in which he had participated in the early days of the west. He would shoot innumerable palefaces, but, attendants said, he would always rescue General Custer from the villainous Indians.

"How old was the chief?" Dr. Wilcox was asked.

"When he came here," the physician replied, "he gave his age as 65, but from what I learned later he was nearer 95 years old. He was remarkably well preserved and stood his age well. Life in the saddle and the constant exercise in the show was responsible for this. If he had remained with us he would have received better care. I do not think he would have ever pulled through the pneumonia, but his life would have been prolonged. However, the old man wanted to go to the happy hunting grounds, and now he has his wish realized."

The profile of Iron Tail was so characteristic of the Indian race that officials at Washington had him pose for a picture. A cut was made from the likeness and engraved on the buffalo nickels.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Bargains in Pianos

Kimball Upright	$125.00
Steinman & Sons upright, oak	145.00
Herlich & Co., upright	85.00
Oak Player Piano	265.00
Storey & Clark, High Organ	22.00
Kimball High Organ	24.50

A. Hospe Co., 407 W. Broadway, Council Bluffs, Ia.

The Columbia Evening Missourian
August 23, 1922

NATIVES POSE FOR NICKEL

Oklahoma Indian and Buffalo Displayed at Ranch Store.

By United Press.

BLISS, Okla. (By Mail.)—The Indian and the buffalo, appearing on the buffalo nickel, now in circulation, are natives of the 101 Ranch near here.

The picture of the Indian, who posed for the coin and the mounted head of the buffalo are both on display in the store of the ranch. Although the pictures are very large, the resemblances on the coin are easily seen.

Buffalo Nickel New To Carolina Mountains

York, S. C., Dec. 13 (AP)—They are discounting buffalo nickels on the South Carolina egg market at the rate of two eggs to the dozen.

John Wallace, who collects eggs from rural residents, is authority for the statement that he has found a woman who never had seen a buffalo nickel and who refused to believe that it is an authorized coin of the United States government.

Wallace said that when he tendered a buffalo nickel in part payment for eggs, the woman insisted upon deducting two eggs from one dozen as a condition of acceptance of the coin.

New Britain Herald - Dec. 13, 1930

The Story Behind the Buffalo Nickel Portrait

Continued

The Obverse: A Composite Portrait

The Native American on the Buffalo nickel is not a single person. Fraser stated repeatedly that the portrait was a composite, created from sketches of several Native American men he met and drew over the years.

He explained:

“My purpose was to make a type, not a portrait.”

This is where the story becomes complicated. Over the decades, Fraser named different men at different times, and several individuals later claimed to be “the” model. Newspapers amplified these claims, and the myth grew.

Today, numismatic historians generally agree on three primary contributors.

Iron Tail (Oglala Lakota)

Iron Tail was one of the most famous Native American performers of his era, known for his work with Buffalo Bill’s Wild West show. Fraser sketched him multiple times and spoke highly of his features.

Many experts believe Iron Tail provided the strong cheekbones and profile seen on the coin.

Two Moons (Cheyenne)

Two Moons was a respected Cheyenne chief who participated in the Battle of the Little Bighorn and later served as a U.S. Army scout. Fraser met him at an exposition and made detailed sketches.

Fraser once said Two Moons had “a perfect profile for a coin,” suggesting he contributed significantly to the final design.

Big Tree (Kiowa)

Big Tree is the most controversial of the three. He claimed late in life that he was the sole model for the coin, and newspapers eagerly repeated the story. Fraser acknowledged sketching him, but it is unclear how much of Big Tree’s likeness made it into the final composite.

Most historians view Big Tree as a possible contributor, but not the primary one.

Why the Confusion?

Several factors created the long-running debate:

- Fraser gave different interviews over 30 years
- Each man (or their descendants) claimed to be the model
- Newspapers preferred simple stories over nuanced truth
- The Mint kept no official documentation of the sittings
- Fraser’s “composite” explanation didn’t satisfy the public’s desire for a single face

The result is a mythos that has become part of the coin’s charm.

The Reverse: The American Bison

While the obverse portrait is a composite, the reverse bison is widely believed to be modeled after Black Diamond, a bison at the Bronx Zoo. Fraser never confirmed this definitively, but the timing and physical similarities make it likely.

Black Diamond was known for his massive head and distinctive hump—features that match the coin's design closely.

BLACK DIAMOND, MODEL FOR DESIGN OF THE "BUFFALO NICKEL," IS DEAD

New York.—Black Diamond, the big Central Park Buffalo, that served as a model for the design of the new $10 note and the "buffalo nickel," is dead. Black Diamond was suffering from an incurable disease, and "Bill" Snyder, keeper of the zoo, decided to have him executed.

The Day Book - November 26, 1915

The Story Behind the Buffalo Nickel Portrait

Continued

Symbolism and Legacy

The Buffalo nickel represents a turning point in American coinage. It broke from classical European imagery and embraced uniquely American themes. The Native American portrait, though not a specific individual, honors the cultures that shaped the continent long before the United States existed.

Collectors continue to debate the identity of the models, but perhaps Fraser's intention matters more than the names:

He wanted to capture strength, dignity, and identity—qualities that transcend any single person.

Conclusion

The Buffalo nickel's portrait is a blend of artistry, memory, and myth. It is not the face of one man, but a symbolic representation of many. Iron Tail, Two Moons, and Big Tree each contributed to the design, but the final image belongs to none of them individually.

Instead, it belongs to American history.

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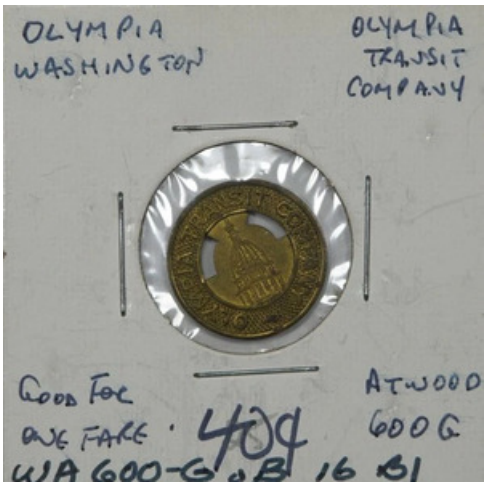

Olympia Transit Token
Sold for $2.25

Olympia W.J. Becker Token
Sold for $3.25

Curley's Place Token
Sold for $12.00

1897-P Morgan Silver Dollar-
Brilliant Uncirculated
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Philadelphia Mint
Sold for $218.50 (40 bids)

1/10 oz Gold American Eagle
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Regular monthly meetings are held at:
Virgil S. Clarkson Senior Center
(next to the Lacey Community Center)
6757 Pacific Ave SE
Lacey, WA 98503
7:00PM on the first Thursday of the month.
Doors open at 6:00PM
No July meeting - August is the Club Picnic
December is the Club Holiday Party

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River's Edge Restaurant
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Tumwater, WA 98501
Board meetings are open to everyone

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Established January 1958 - Olympia, Washington

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Junior membership (under 18) is $3

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- **Promote numismatics** – Foster a deep appreciation for coins, currency, and related collectibles, encouraging study, preservation, and historical exploration.
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Jay DeBoer - JayHobo.com

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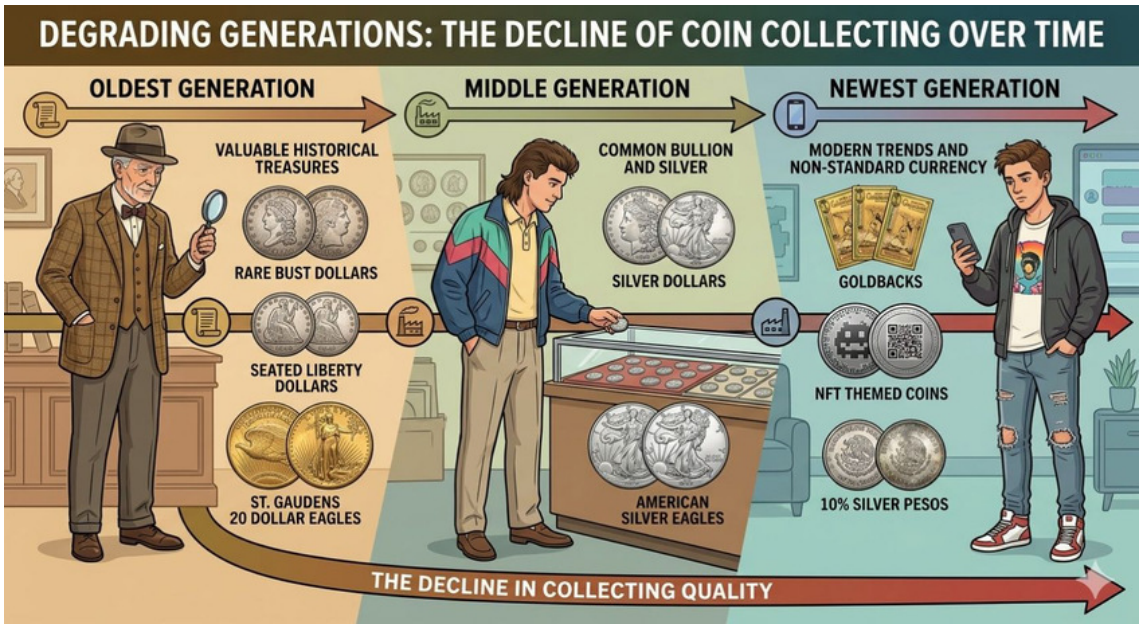

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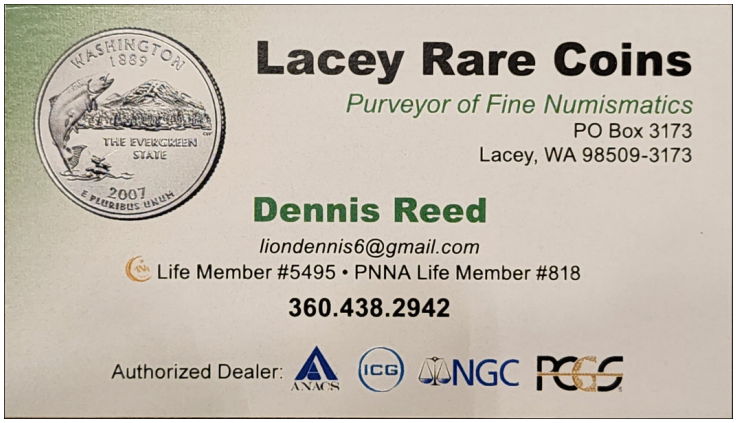

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